



**SEIUHealthcare.**  
United for Quality Care

February 23, 2022  
Chien Nguyen, PCA  
Branford

District 1199 New England  
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Evening members of the Committee, my name is Chien Nguyen and I am a PCA from Branford. I have been in this field for 14 years and I have been paid for 2 years as a PCA. I love my job because I love my daughter who is my consumer. She is a very friendly, adorable, great kid. I enjoy taking care of her. I shower her, feed her, help her walk and get out of bed. I help her go to the bathroom, change her diapers, I dress her, give her medication, talk to her doctors for her. She needs 24 hr supervision.

Without these services, she would not have any independence and she wouldn't push herself. We taught her how to walk and go up and down stairs, but she needs someone with her all the time and does not talk.

Being a PCA means I get low wages and zero benefits. DSS and Allied frustrate me because they don't care about us. I don't have health insurance, and I don't have paid sick days. I hear from a lot of other PCAs the same worries: "I still can't pay my medical bills;" "I have no healthcare;" "I am on Medicaid spend down;" or "I don't qualify for Husky." These are things nobody should have to worry about.

For example, I have a dental bill that I can't pay. They are threatening to sue me because I can't pay, but I don't know what to do. They keep asking me to pay the dental bill, but I don't have the money for it. I feel very bad, and angry that we don't get help.

I have to borrow money from my father sometimes when I can't pay bills. My wife doesn't have money. I can't afford to pay car insurance without borrowing money sometimes, and I have to have insurance or I will get arrested if I drive. I worry about my daughter, who has asthma and gets sick very easily. I am worried that if I get sick and can't get medical help, what will happen to her.

With health insurance, I would have less stress and the medical bills would get paid. I would have more money to live on and can take care of my daughter without stress. Please help PCAs like me. Thank you for your time.

